We feel we here a right to be informed as to whether the food in purchase his ban irradiated

## Irradiate This

One way to eliminate *E. coli* and other potentially harmful bacteria in ground beef, chicken, and other foods is to irradiate them.

But there are a few reasons to be concerned about the process. It involves moving radioactive material around the country—always a risky proposition. And it doesn't prevent sloppy handling at the plant, at home, or in restaurants, which could recontaminate food after it's been zapped.

Whether you can't wait to buy irradiated beef and other products or you're determined to avoid them, one thing is clear: Consumers need to be able to identify irradiated foods at the supermarket and in restaurants. That's what nine out of ten people said in a nationally representative telephone poll of 1,000 adults that we commissioned in June of 1996.

If you agree, please write or e-mail the officials listed below and tell them that irradiated foods need to carry a prominent disclosure, in easy-to-read type, on the front of the package. Thank you.